



**Town of Berlin  
Municipal Office Building  
108 Shed Road**

**Berlin, VT. 05602  
Regular Select Board Meetings  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Each Month**

### **Special Meeting**

**Thursday, January 20, 2011  
6:00 PM**

Selectboard Members: Susan Gretkowski, Chair; Nancy Driscoll, Vice Chair; Roberta Haskin, Secretary; Brad Towne and Jonathan Goddard. Present: Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator; Patti Lewis, Town Treasurer. All items are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Susan Gretkowski** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Public Comment**

**Patti Lewis** stated that there is a Senate Bill that has been introduced increasing the Veterans Exemption on property taxes to \$40,000. She stated that this exemption would be on both the municipal tax and the education tax. **Patti** stated that the bill, if approved, would not be in effect until 2012 and states that a veteran only needs to provide one letter from the VA for this exemption. She stated that the Town currently requires an exemption letter from the VA every year.

#### **Signing of the Town Meeting Warning**

The Board reviewed the Town Meeting Warning. **Susan Gretkowski** stated that the Town budget amount in the warning is \$2,399,339. **Jeff Schulz** stated that the Fire Department has provided their budget figure of \$139,900, which is an increase over last year, and are asking for a Special Appropriation of \$20,500 for a green energy efficiency program. **Susan** asked if there were any last minute changes to the special appropriation requests? **Jeff** stated that there were no additional requests for special appropriations. **Patti Lewis** asked if the Board may want to revise the penalty and interest on each installment of property taxes? **Jeff** stated that the residents voted on setting a different schedule of penalty and interest on taxes and wanted to keep it the same. **Jonathan Goddard** stated that the penalty and interest issue is a floor vote and may be debated at Town meeting. **Patti** stated that the Board needs to make a motion on the budget and a separate motion on the 3% wage increase. She stated that the auditors have suggested the motion on the wage increase. Motion by **Nancy Driscoll** to approve a 3% wage increase on the hourly rate for hourly employees and a 3% wage increase on annual salary for salaried employees. Second by **Roberta Haskin**. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by **Jonathan Goddard** to approve the Town budget for FY 12 in the amount of \$2,399,339 for necessary Town expenses. Second by **Nancy Driscoll**. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by **Roberta Haskin** to approve and sign the warning and notice of the Annual Town Meeting. Second by **Jonathan Goddard**. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Adjourn**

Motion by **Roberta Haskin** to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. Second by **Jonathan Goddard**.

Motion carried 5-0.

For the Select Board:

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Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant